

The Southeast News

VOLUME X NUMBER 2

DECEMBER 1961

WE WISH YOU A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS . . . AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

The celebration of Christmas today presents many faces and moods. There is the gay laughter of children, fresh from their visit to Santa and excited by toyland, and there is the frustrated sobbing of youngsters, weary with shopping and waiting to go home. There is the delighted grandmother who has successfully matched presents and grandchildren, and there is the weary clerk-mother who has lost all hope that the last shopping day before Christmas will ever arrive and end.

There is the bewildered man who doesn't know quite how he got involved in the shopping expedition, and there is the pleased merchant watching the crowds flow in and out to the tune of a curious mixture of carols and the bells of the cash registers. The sidewalks are crowded. There are happy faces and grumpy faces —shining faces and discouraged faces. There is excitement in the air.

This is Christmas. Not all of it is good. Not all of it is religious. Yet over it all, to those who have ears attuned to hear, there come the words of the angel voices " . . . for behold I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Then those who hear are more joyful, more hopeful, and more loving. For this, then, is Christmas.

At this Christmas Season we pray that Christ may be in your heart and in your living. May your Christmas be joyful and your New Year blessed by God.

Carolyn P. Welch

Lois D. Harry

W. J. Strickland

Emilie F. Pitcock

Wilmer L. McCord

James H. Lightbourne Jr.

United Church Accepts The Invitation To Union Talks

The United Church of Christ on November 10 accepted an invitation to join in exploratory conversations toward union with the Presbyterians, Protestant Episcopal, and Methodist denominations.

The Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster, New York City, president, announced the United Church would be represented by a delegation of nine at a conference scheduled for April 9 and 10 in Washington, D. C.

In a letter to the Rev. Dr. Charles D. Kean, Washington, D. C., secretary of the Commission on Approaches to Unity of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Dr. Herbster agreed to begin formal conversations "exploring the establishment of a united church — truly Catholic, truly Reformed, and truly Evangelical."

The invitation was extended by the United Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., represented by the Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, Stated Clerk, and the Rev. James I. McCord, chairman of its Committee of Nine; and the Protestant Episcopal Church, represented by the Rt. Rev. Robert F. Gibson Jr., chairman of the Commission on Approaches to Unity, and Dr. Kean.

Dr. Herbster appointed the Rev. Dr. David G. Colwell, minister of First Congregational Church, Washington, D. C., to represent the United Church of Christ on a preliminary committee to plan the agenda for the conference. Dr. Colwell is chairman of the denomination's Commission on Christian Unity and Ecumenical Study and Service.

The United Church of Christ, which links the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches, was the first union in the United States of Protestant churches with different types of church government and tradition.

The former Evangelical and Reformed Church, founded by German pioneers, had a presbyterial — or representative — type of government, while the Congregational Christian Churches, established by the Pilgrims and the Puritans of New England, have traditionally independent churches, each governed by its own congregation. The constitution of the United Church, which was declared in force July 4, 1961, guarantees the continued independence of the local churches.

The proposed inter-denominational

New Assistant Chosen By United Church President

Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster, New York, president of the United Church of Christ, today announced the appointment of Rev. Dr. Robert F. R. Peters, Cleveland, as assistant to the president. Dr. Peters will take office in New York City on January 1, 1962.

Dr. Peters has been minister of East Cleveland Congregational Church since 1958. Prior to that he served pastorates in Sandusky, Ohio, and Bridgeport and Stony Creek, Conn.

He has been active in the formation of the United Church of Christ, which came into being in 1957 as a union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The denomination adopted a constitution and completed its organizational structure last July.

Dr. Peters is a member of the committee on conference organization of the United Church, which is arranging the union of regional conferences and synods of the uniting denominations. He is also co-chairman of the committee on union for the local churches of the United Church of Christ in Greater Cleveland.

He is currently president of the East Cleveland Ministerial Association and a member of the East Cleveland Kiwanis Club.

Dr. Peters has served the Ohio Conference of Congregational Christian Churches as chairman of its stewardship committee, as a member of the board of trustees and as moderator of the Conference; and the Congregational Christian Churches nationally as chairman of the national committee on the denomination's Christian world missionary appeal.

He is a graduate of Defiance (Ohio) College and Yale University Divinity School.

conference is the result of the action of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., which on May of this year invited the Protestant Episcopal Church to join it in inviting the Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ to participate in four-way conversations.

The Presbyterian invitation was accepted by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church at its meeting in September.



Sudden Death Strikes Rev. Thomas Anderson

The Reverend Thomas Anderson, recently retired minister of Central Congregational Church and long an outstanding leader in the Southeast Convention and the Congregational Christian Churches, died on November 21, 1961, in Pensacola, Fla.

Dr. Anderson was stricken on Friday, November 17, at the home of friends. He was taken to the hospital but did not respond to treatment, remaining unconscious until his death on Tuesday.

Following his retirement, which was effective September 1 of this year, Dr. Anderson served as chaplain on a cruise which lasted several weeks. He returned to Atlanta early in November.

On Sunday, November 12, Central Congregational Church honored Dr. Anderson at the morning worship, informing him of his election to the office of Minister Emeritus and presenting him with a citation for his outstanding service to the church. He also was presented with a generous check, representing the gifts of church members and friends. A reception in his honor followed the morning service.

Before coming to Atlanta he had served the Charles City, Iowa, Wellington Avenue, Chicago, and the Brewster Pilgrim, Detroit Congregational Christian Churches.

Dr. Anderson served the Atlanta church for seventeen years, during which it experienced its years of greatest growth in membership and program.

The memorial service was conducted by Superintendent James H. Lightbourne Jr. in Atlanta on Friday, November 24. Burial was in Delphos, Ohio.

Southern Union College Companion Pocket Cross

The Southern Union College is now the owner and distributor of the Companion Pocket Cross, according to an announcement made today by President Walter A. Graham.

The Companion Pocket Cross idea was started by Mr. Frank H. Korab, a traveling salesman and a devoted churchman from Kansas City, Kansas, as the result of a letter written to him by Dr. Ronald Bridges, also an outstanding churchman, politician, educator, and brother of the late Senator Bridges of New Hampshire.

Since the death of Mr. Korab and Dr. Bridges, the Companion Pocket Cross Project was carried on by Mrs. Korab from her home in Kansas City. Because of her declining health, the project has just been sold to the college, which will carry it on, the net proceeds being used solely for scholarship aid to worthy young men and women who, but for the little junior college in Wadley, might not have any college education at all.

The Companion Pocket Cross, a small aluminum cross, neatly polished, is contained in a 16 page booklet which is inserted in an envelope for remailing. The front of the cross bears 4 insignia, a description of which is in the booklet, along with the original letter and other meaningful words about the pocket cross idea.

Approximately 100,000 crosses have been distributed without any build up or advertising campaign. President Graham, formerly National Director of the Laymen's Fellowship of the Congregational Christian Churches, who helped the originator distribute nearly 50,000 crosses, stated that the former policy would be continued. Although there are many details to the making, packaging and distributing of the crosses, much of which will be performed by work aid college students, the cost is very reasonable.

Owners of the Pocket Cross are both international and interdenominational. The cross makes an outstanding individual gift and has been welcomed by members of the clergy and laity alike, including men and women.

Subscribe to
The Southeast News

The Christmas Fund For The Veterans Of The Cross

This is the sixtieth year of the CHRISTMAS FUND. There is really nothing quite like it. It is the way this denomination has cared for retired ministers and their wives and for the widows of these men.

It is the tribute paid to the Veterans of the Cross. Years on small salary, plus the inroads of inflation, have made pensions inadequate even with good planning. The times of crisis and special need when they come, simply demand added aid. The Christmas Fund goes into action with special grants and with Christmas checks to lift the load.

Last year from every corner of the land, 4,905 individuals and 1,744 churches

sent gifts to a total of \$161,000. From this, 722 Christmas checks went out. A second check was added in March. The balance was used to meet emergency needs throughout the year. The letters of thanks are full testimony of the validity of the Christmas Fund appeal.

Churches and individuals are urged to contribute to the Christmas Fund. Your gift may be sent to:

The Christmas Fund
The Congregational Board of
Ministerial Relief
287 Park Avenue South
New York 10, New York



Christmas Fund
for the
VETERANS of the CROSS

WE REMEMBER

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE CHRISTMAS FUND. SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:
THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD OF MINISTERIAL RELIEF
287 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Second-class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia

Published monthly by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION

of Congregational Christian Churches
(The United Church of Christ)
673 Piedmont Avenue N. E.
Atlanta, Ga. TRinity 4-2558

Single Subscription \$1.50 per year
Group Subscription \$1.00 per year

STAFF

Rev. Jas. H. Lightbourne, Jr. Editor
Mrs. Jettie Logan Promotion

Printed by The Roanoke Leader,
Roanoke, Alabama

Volume X December 1961 No. 2

Superintendent's Corner

The year 1961 soon will come to its end. 1962 is just around the corner. It is too soon to tell what the year 1961 has meant in terms of the Program of Progress of the Southeast Convention.

We do know that at the present time the contributions of our churches to Our Christian World Mission are lagging behind the record of last year at this time.

There are several key churches which probably will make their regular contributions before the end of the year who have not done so as yet.

But the real key to the situation are the churches which made no contribution last year and have made no contribution this year. If these churches were to respond generously to the needs of our mission work at home and around the world, the record of 1961 would give cause for rejoicing.

Has your church contributed to Our Christian World Mission this year? It is not too late to do so. In order for your church to receive credit in 1961 it is necessary that the contribution be received in this office before January 10, 1962. The record of the church would be published in The Year Book, showing that the church supports Our Christian World Mission. OCWM contributions should be sent to:

Southeast Convention
673 Piedmont Avenue N. E.
Atlanta 8, Georgia

FAMILY SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

(LIGHT ADVENT CANDLES, OR A CANDLE, AS A SIGN THAT WORSHIP HAS BEGUN. QUIET MUSIC CAN BE PLAYED ON PIANO OR PHONOGRAPH).

CANDLE LIGHTING: (read by a child)

*A candle is a lovely thing
To light the world tonight.
A brave white candle straight and tall
To make the darkness bright.*

— Grace Noll Crowell

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: Luke 2:1-7 (read by Father)

CAROL: "Away in a Manger"

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: Luke 2:1-11 (read by Mother)

POEM: (read by a child)

*Christmas is a lovely time,
A loving, sharing, giving time;
Stars, trees, packages, Santa Claus,
All these things mean Christmas!*

*Christmas is a lovely time,
A happy, merry, joyous time;
Songs, stories, thoughts of friends,
All these things mean Christmas!*

*Christmas is a lovely time,
And most of all a special time;
A special time to think of Jesus
Born in Bethlehem long, long ago!*

PRAYER: Dear God, we thank Thee for the gift of Jesus. As we give and receive gifts this Christmas may we remember Him who was the first Christmas gift. May we be joined in a circle of friendship with all Thy children everywhere who celebrate His birthday. AMEN.

(Blow out candles at end of the service)

Avon Park Meeting Set For Education Leaders

More than twenty lay leaders and ministers of the Southeast Convention have accepted the invitation of the Christian Education Committee to participate in a three-year training and leadership effort called the "Christian Education Associates."

In a brochure published by The Board of Home Missions, Rev. Howard F. Boardman, National CEA Coordinator, writes: "CEA's are to be . . . a corps of leaders trained in basic foundations of the Christian faith, of Christian education and age level specifics who can be called upon to serve in all types of leadership training ventures, such as Christian education workshops, demonstration teaching workshops, curriculum previews, local church consultations, camp leaders and counselors, etc. The exact kinds of things they will be invited to do will depend upon the leadership education program planning of each conference and synod committee of Christian education."

Initial training of our Southeast Convention CEA's will be held in cooperation with the Convention of the South and the Florida Conference at Avon Park, Fla., January 8-13, 1962. During this "Avon Park Workshop", area CEA's will have opportunity to meet to formulate plans for continued study and leadership training within their own associations and conferences. Watch the **Southeast News** for further details of the CEA.

HERE AND THERE

Rev. E. H. Henby, Andalusia, Ala., was granted Conference Ordination at a service held on November 19 at the Antioch Church. Mr. Henby thus has full ministerial standing throughout the Southeast Convention.

The laymen of the Langdale Church held a Fellowship Retreat November 11-12. Seventeen men attended the retreat held at Sledge's Camp.

Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga, observed its 47th anniversary and Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Slater their 17th anniversary as pastor and wife of the church on Sunday, December 3. Supt. Lightbourne was the guest speaker for the occasion.

Rev. Archie B. Bedford, former minister of Circular Church, Charleston, S. C., now lives at Winchester, Ky. (Box 366). As a "retired minister" he

Mt. Creek Union Church Led By Rev. Graham Norris

The Mt. Creek Union Church is showing great progress under the leadership of our pastor, Rev. Graham Norris. Brother Norris was a wonderful Sunday School teacher and preached his first sermon about three years ago. Since then, he has pastored this church two Sundays a month. He was ordained at our church in June, 1961.

Our attendance and membership have greatly increased. We have added ten new members this last year. The church has called Brother Norris for full-time service by a 100% vote.

Besides being a wonderful pastor, Brother Norris gave his time for one year to help beautify the church and make it more comfortable.

Some of the things we have done under his leadership are: paid off an old \$300.00 loan on the building; added two new Sunday School rooms, and remodeled the other two; painted the entire interior of the church; bought oak pews, heaters, fans, blinds, a chair for the pulpit, and fixed a pretty nursery.

Brother Norris and his wife had an electronic eye installed outside the church. We set our shrubbery and bought 70 feet of cement lunch tables, where we have some wonderful fellowship dinners.

We have an active Women's Fellowship with about 12 members. Besides visiting the sick, we clean the church each week. We sell cards, pepper, flavoring, and have suppers to raise money for our own projects. Our project now is selling Christmas cards to buy new song books and a stove. Some of the projects for which we have made money are: silverware, pulpit chair, digging a well, stage curtains, and a very nice baptismal pool. We have also made curtains for the club house.

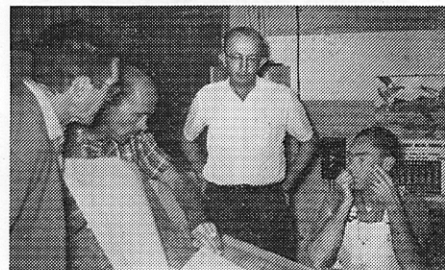
We are very proud of our pastor, his family, and our church. With God's help and blessing, we expect to grow even more in the future.

Frankie Blankenship
Church Clerk

still is quite active, regularly filling Presbyterian Church pulpits in the area as a "Stated Supply".

Attention, Youth Leaders

Youth Week (January 28-February 4) Packets can be ordered for 75c from P. & D. Dept., Nat'l. Council of Churches, Box 340, Manhattanville Station, New York 27, N. Y.

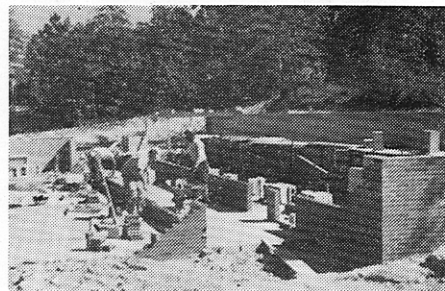


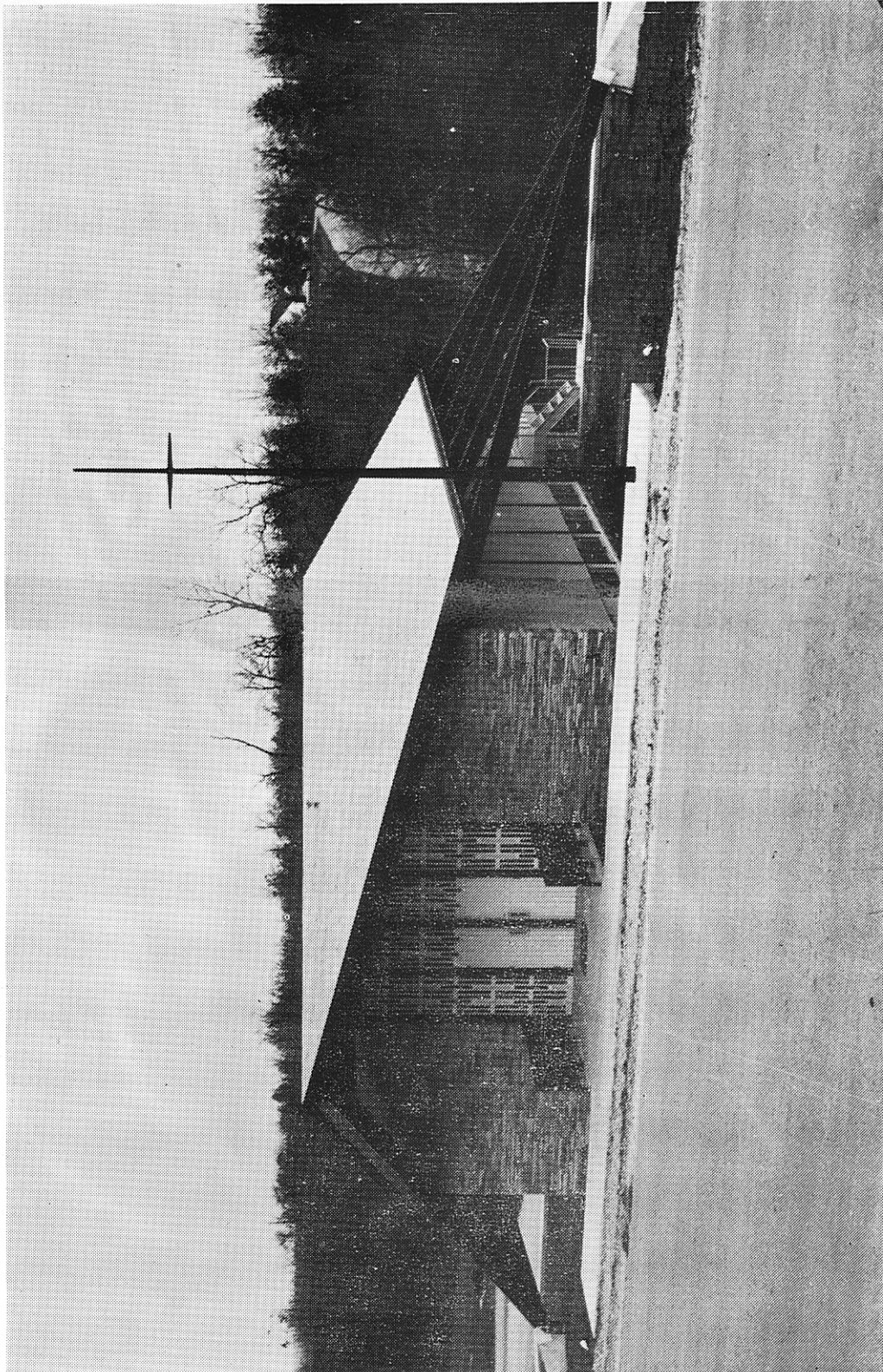
Russell Woods Church Makes Progress Report

Members of the building committee meet regularly to check the progress of the new building. Four members are seen discussing changes necessary for economy's sake. The educational wing being built first will be valued at \$40,000.00 when completed, so it is the challenging task of the building committee to make certain no excessive cost is involved. Much of the labor is being donated by the church members so careful planning can save several thousand dollars.

Seen in the picture, left to right: Robert Bonner, Freddie Foster, Harry Barr and Herman Bloodworth. Freddie Foster is chairman of the Building Committee. Three members were not present when the picture was made.

When this picture was made, the walls had just begun to go up. The camera is facing the front entrance. The south wall of the Sunday School rooms (to right) has been completed. The brick masons are working in the fellowship hall while their helper unloads bricks in the south corridor. To the left of this picture is another corridor and row of four Sunday School rooms running parallel to those seen in right of the picture.





On September 10, 1961, dedication services were held for the First Congregational Church, Crossville, Tenn., with the Rev. Dr. Albert Edward Day of Washington, D. C., delivering the sermon. Rev. Carolyn P. Welch, moderator of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, Rev. Annie Campbell and Dr. Paul R. Reynolds participated in the service. The Rev. Harold Wiley Freer, minister of the church, presided. The church was organized in 1887 and will celebrate its 75th anniversary next October when it is host to the annual meeting of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. Members of the Building Committee were R. N. Pelot, chairman, Mrs. W. M. Young, W. A. Boyce, Dr. Paul A. Ervin and Ralph Hall. The Finance Committee members were C. C. Simonton, chairman, Mrs. M. E. Dorton, and Dr. W. M. Young.